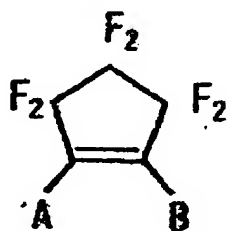


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

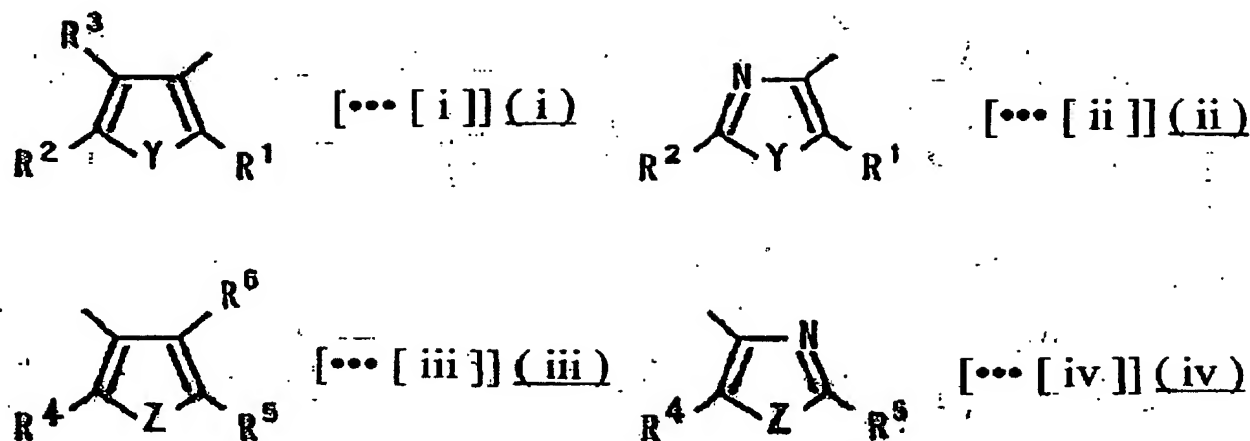
Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A photochromic material comprising a compound having a ring opening quantum yield of 10^{-3} or lower, [belonging to] which is a diheteroarylethene [class], represented by the following [general] formula [[I]] (I):



[... [I]] (I)

wherein, in the [general] formula [[I]] (I), A represents following substituents [[i] or [ii]] (i) or (ii), and B represents following substituents [[iii] or [iv]] (iii) or (iv);



wherein, in the substituents $[[i]]$ and $[[ii]]$ (i) and (ii), R^1 represents an alkoxy group, R^2 represents $-Q-Ar$, Q [representing] represents a direct bond or [an arbitrary] a divalent group and Ar [representing] represents an aromatic hydrocarbon ring or an aromatic heterocycle which are optionally substituted, R^3 represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a halogen atom, a fluoroalkyl group; a cyano group, or an aryl group which is optionally substituted, and Y represents $-O-$ or $-S-$; and

in the substituents $[[iii]]$ and $[[iv]]$ (iii) and (iv), R^4 represents an alkoxy group, R^5 represents $-Q-Ar$, Q [representing] represents a direct bond or [an arbitrary] a divalent group and Ar [representing] represents an aromatic hydrocarbon ring or an aromatic heterocycle which are optionally substituted, R^6 represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a halogen atom, a fluoroalkyl group, a cyano group, or an aryl group which is optionally substituted, and Z represents $-O-$ or $-S-$.

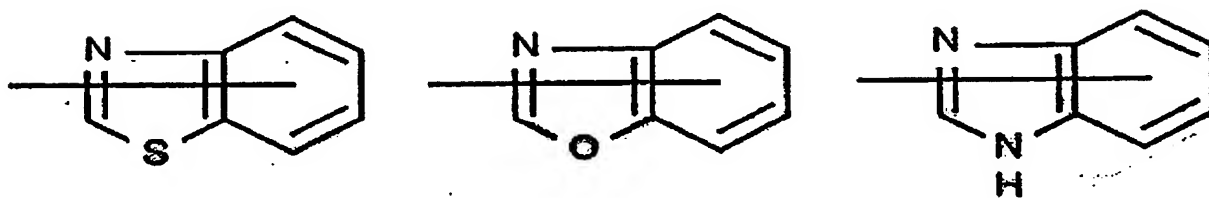
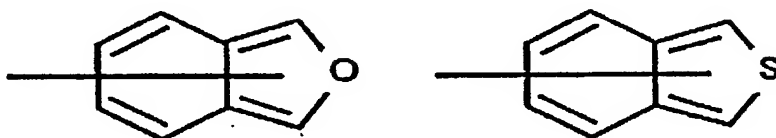
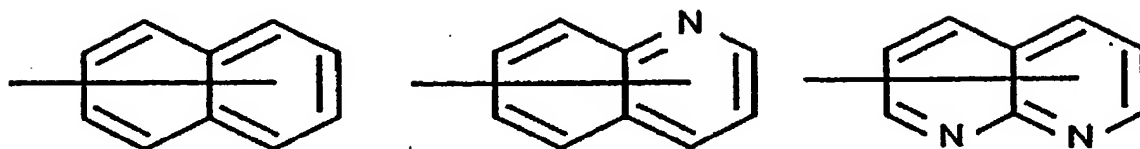
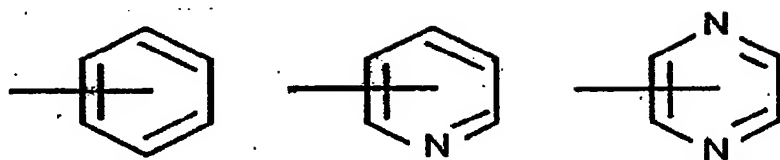
2. (Previously presented) A photochromic material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ring opening quantum yield is 3.3×10^{-4} or lower.

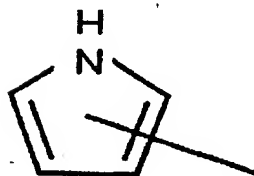
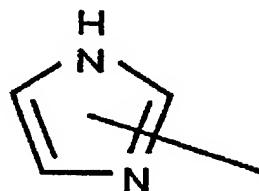
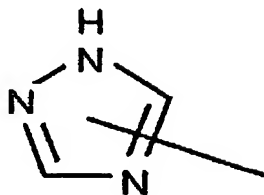
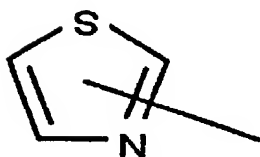
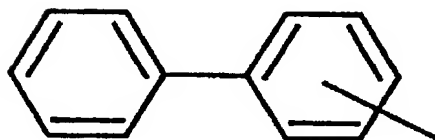
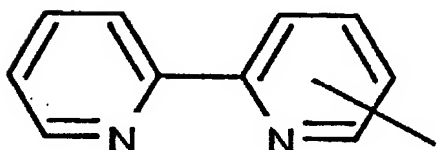
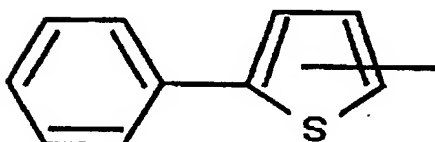
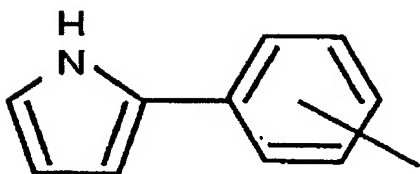
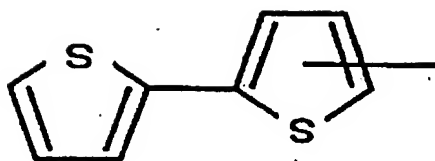
3. (Currently amended) A photochromic material as claimed in claim 1, wherein R^1 and R^4 in the substituents $[[i]-[iv]]$ (i)-(iv) of said [general] formula $[[I]]$ (I) each [comprise] comprises independently an alkoxy group having 1-3 carbon atoms.

4. (Currently amended) A photochromic material as claimed in claim 3, wherein R^1 and R^4 each [comprise] comprises a methoxy group.

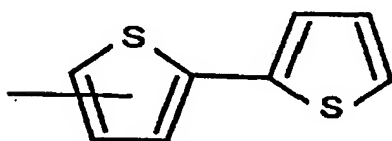
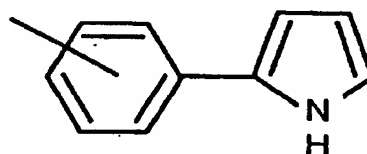
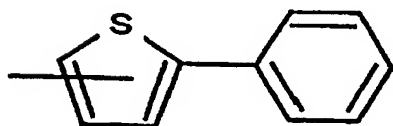
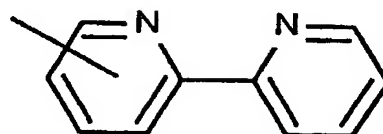
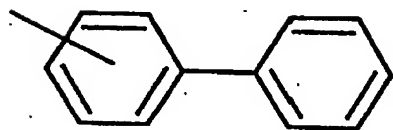
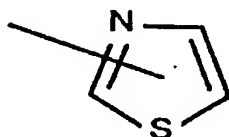
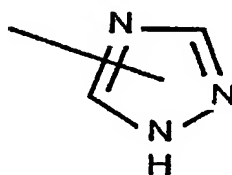
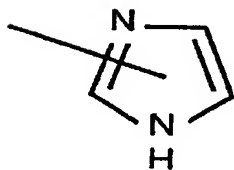
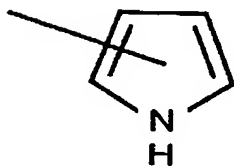
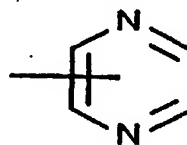
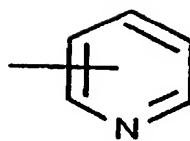
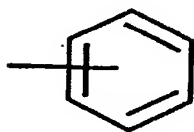
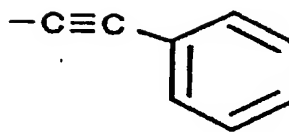
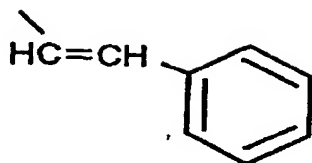
5. (Currently amended) A photochromic material [described] as claimed in claim 1, wherein Q in Q-Ar corresponding to R^2 and R^5 in the substituents $[[i]-[iv]]$ (i)-(iv) of said [general] formula $[[I]]$ (I) each [comprise] comprises independently a direct bond, $-(-CH=CH-)n-$ (wherein $n = 1-5$), or $-(C\equiv C-)n-$ (wherein $n = 1-5$), whereby Ar comprises a single 5- or 6-member ring, or two or three 5- or 6-member rings directly bonded or condensed, each of said rings being optionally substituted.

6. (original) A photochromic material as claimed in claim 5, wherein Ar in Q-Ar corresponding to R^2 and R^5 is selected independently from the group consisting of the following formulae:





7. (Currently amended) A photochromic material as claimed in claim 6, wherein R^2 and R^5 are each selected independently from the group consisting of following formulae:



8. (Currently amended) A photochromic material [described] as claimed in claim 1, wherein R^3 and R^6 each [comprise] comprises independently a linear alkyl group.

9. (Currently amended) A photochromic material [described] as claimed in claim 1, wherein the photochromic material comprises a compound, [belonging to the] which is a diheteroarylethene [class], selected from the group consisting of following formulae:

